

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 953

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO ELAB GH

SUBJECT: U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO

1. ACCRA DAILY GHANAIAAN TIMES NOVEMBER 9 CARRIED BRIEF ARTICLE ENTITLED "APPEAL TO U.S." CONCERNING WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO. ARTICLE BASED ON PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY NOVEMBER 8, THE COMPLETE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:
"WORKERS OF AFRICA ARE DISMAYED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, THEREBY DENYING THE ORGANIZATION ITS UNIVERSALITY A PRINCIPLE ON WHICH ITS FOUNDERS LIKE THE GREAT AMERICAN TRADE UNION LEADER SAMUEL GOMPERS BELIEVED IN.
"WE WISH TO STATE QUITE CATEGORICALLY THAT ILO IS NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANY ONE GROUP, BUT HAS BEEN OPERATING ON THE BASIS OF COMPROMISE. NO ONE GROUP, WESTERN, EASTERN OR THIRD WORLD CAN CONTROL THE ILO ORGANS AND OPERATIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS LED BY AMERICA WHICH TO-DATE, DOMINATES THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN GENEVA. ATTEMPTS TO DEMOCRATIZE THE STRUCTURE HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF DEADLOCK FOR OVER TEN YEARS;
"WE ALSO WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT POLITICS HAVE NEVER DOMINATED ILO WORKS OR CONFERENCES. POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS OR AGENDA CONSTITUTE HARDLY 5-O/O OF THE ILO WORK OR AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE. WE IN AFRICA ARE SATISFIED THAT ILO HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON TRADE
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UNION RIGHTS, SOCIAL SECURITY, EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL CONVENTIONS CONCERNING THE WORKING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENTS. IT IS TRUE THAT AT THE ILO CONFERENCES THE PROBLEM OF APARTHEID AND CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE AND OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS HAVE BEEN RAISED. THESE WERE LEGITIMATE RESOLUTIONS, WHICH ILO AS THE UN AGENCY CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COULD NOT IGNORE. THIS YEAR, AMERICA AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ILO

AND OTHER GROUPS COMPROMISED ON THIS ISSUE AND IT WAS LEFT THAT THE REPORT WOULD BE TABLED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN 1978 AND 1979 ON CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS, LIKE THE CASE IS ON THE CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.
"WE AGREE THAT ILO MUST BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT ITS ORGANS MUST BE MADE TO WORK AND ON THIS WE WERE EQUALLY DISAPPOINTED BY THE DEFEAT

THIS YEAR OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTION, BUT HERE AGAIN THE FAULT IS WITH WHOEVER BROUGHT AGAIN THE QUESTION OF ISRAEL CONTRARY TO THE PREVIOUS COMPROMISE AMONG ALL GROUPS.

"IT IS WE IN THE THIRD WORLD WHO ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ILO TO STRENGTHEN TRIPARTISM AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS, AND IT IS WE WHO NEED ILO EXPERTS ON EMPLOYMENT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING ETC. IT IS WE WHO ARE HARDEST HIT BY POVERTY AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE ILO CONCENTRATE ON SOCIAL CONVENTIONS; BUT IT MUST ALSO BE MADE CLEAR THAT ILO AND OTHER UN AGENCIES MUST REFLECT THE WORLD AS IT IS TODAY.

"AMONG WORKERS IN AFRICA FAR FROM CREATING A POSITIVE REACTION, UNITED STATES WITHDRAWAL IS LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT CATER ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAS ALREADY STARTED MAKING FRIENDS IN AFRICA AND ARAB WORLD OVER ITS POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PALESTINIANS' HOMELAND, WILL CONSIDER REVERSING THEIR DECISION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE;

"WE DO HOWEVER WISH TO APPEAL TO BOTH THE DEVELOPED NATIONS AND THE THIRD WORLD NATIONS WHO HAVE MEANS AND SURPLUS AND WHO SUBSCRIBE

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TO THE PRINCIPLE ON WHICH ILO WAS FOUNDED TO SUPPORT ILO PROGRAMMES, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA WHERE MILLIONS ARE STILL LIVING UNDER EXTREME MISERY AND POVERTY. WE HOPE AND TRUST THAT DURING THE UNITED STATES WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO (WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE RECONSIDERED AND REVERSED) AFRICA WILL NOT EXPERIENCE A CUT-BACK IN ILO PROGRAMMES." SIGNED BY J.D. AKUMU, SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. EMBASSY LABOR REPORTING OFFICER MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO AND WILL LEAVE STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER, LABOR SECRETARY MARSHALL AND LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL. LABOR OFFICER ALSO DISCUSSED REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL WITH CHIEF LABOR OFFICER IN LABOR

MINISTRY. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO
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